

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

AGR-05 TAR-01 /088 W
----- 045446

P R 160036Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5707

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO (POUCH)

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MX XM

SUBJ: SECRETARY KISSINGER-FONSEC RABASA MEETING GIVEN HEARY
PLAY IN MEXICAN PRESS

REF: MEXICO 362

SUMMARY: MEETING JAN 14 BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER
AND FONSEC RABASA RECEIVED TOP PLAY IN MEXICAN PRESS,
WHICH STRESSED FONSEC'S COMMENTS FOLLOWING MEETING.
DESPITE CONTINUED CRITICISM TRADE LAW HERE, MEETING
HAD USEFUL IMPACT, AND SECRETARY'S SHOW OF FLEXIBILITY
AND DESIRE MINIMIZE ADVERSE EFFECTS TRADE LAW CAME
THROUGH. END SUMMARY

1. MEXICAN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY JAN 15 MTO MEETING
IN WASHINGTON JAN 14 OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN
SECRETARY RABASA. MEETING WAS DESCRIBED AS LASTING
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90-100 MINUTES, WITH HEAVY PLAY GIVEN TO RABASA'S

SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH MEXICO BEFORE APPLYING SANCTIONS WUNDER NEW U.S. TRADE LAW.

2. RABASA REPORTED THAT HE LEFT DOCUMENTS WITH SECRETARY "PROVING" THAT NEW LAW WAS "DISCRIMINATORY" AND VIOLATES VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS (FOR LIST SEE MEXICO 315). OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO MEXICO ACCORDING RABASA IS GSP ARTICLE INCLUDING \$25 MILLION-50 PERCENT LIMITS ON EXPORTS BENEFITTING FROM GSP PROVISIONS. GIVEN VOLUME MEXICAN-U.S. TRADE THIS PARTICULARLY UNFAIR FOR MEXICO, ACCORDING FONSEC.

3. MEXICAN FONSEC ALSO INDICATED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ATTEMPTING PERSUADE VENEZUELAN AND ECUADOREANS TO ATTEND MARCH MFM IN BUENOS AIRES IN ORDER IRON OUT PROBLEMS. RABASA REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SECRETARY'S EFFORTS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL SO THAT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR COULD ATTEND MFM "AS EQUALS" MAKING JOINT EFFORTS RESOLVE HEMISPHERE PROBLEMS.

4. RABASA FURTHER INFORMED PRESS THAT SECRETARY PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ECHEVERRIA CHARTER ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES PASSED BY LAST UNGA.

5. MEXICAN PRESS ALSO CONTAINS STORIES ON JAN 20 OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL MEETINGS ON TRADE LAW, WITH QUOTE FROM LUIS ALVARADO THAT "NEW U.S. TRADE LAW JURIDICALLY INADMISSABLE." ALSO SOME COVERAGE ASISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS BRIEFING LA AMBASSADORS. FURTHER DETAILS PRESS COVERAGE IN USIS MEDIAREACT FOR JAN 15.

6. COMMENTS: (A) EMBASSY NOTES HEAVY PLAY GIVEN RABASA STATEMENT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER PROMISED "CONSULT" WITH MEXICO BEFORE APPLYING "SANCTIONS" UNDER NEW TRADE LAW. WHILE MEXICO NOT AFFECTED BY OPEC PROVISION AND UNLIKELY AS THINGS STAND NOW TO BE INCLUDED IN OTHER PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS PRODUCER CARTELS, WE ARE STILL MOST INTERESTED IN RECEIVING FROM DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY ACTUAL COMMITMENT. (B) STATEMENT BY RABASA EXPRESSING HOPE THAT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR CAN BE CONVINCED TO ATTEND MARCH MFM IN BUENOS AIRES SEEMS AT ODDS WITH RECENT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA (REPORTED REFTEL) THAT MEXICO IS ITSELF UNDECIDED ON QUESTION MFM ATTENDANCE. THIS MATTER MAY STRAIGHTEN ITSELF OUT FOLLOWING RABASA'S RETURN TO MEXICO. (C) IN GENERAL, MEETING BETWEEN FONSEC RABASA AND SECRETARY KISSINGER DEFINITELY SEEMS TO HAVE

DEFLATED TRA ISSUE WITH SECRETARY'S REPORTED WILLINGNESS TO
PAY HEED TO FONSEC RABASA IN HIS SELF-APPOINTED ROLE AS LA
SPOKESMAN. WHETHER ISSUE WILL BE PUMPED UP AGAIN AFTER
RABASA'S RETURN REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
JOVA

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